

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter. [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter (or double square brackets "[[]]" if the strikethrough is not easily perceivable, *i.e.*, "4" or a punctuation mark) and underlined for added matter.]

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) In a particulate-matter-delivery system having a mechanical agitator and a meter for monitoring the delivery of particulate matter from the system, a method comprising the steps of:

activating the mechanical agitator;

deactivating the mechanical agitator; [[and]]

recursively repeating the mechanical agitator activating and deactivating steps; and deactivating the meter when the mechanical agitator is activated.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8:

wherein the step of activating the mechanical agitator comprises the step of activating the mechanical agitator during a first time interval; and

wherein the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator comprises the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator during a second time interval, the second time interval being greater than the first time interval.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9:

wherein the step of activating the mechanical agitator during the first time interval comprises the step of activating the mechanical agitator for approximately ten (10) seconds; and

wherein the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator during the second time interval comprises the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator for approximately five (5) minutes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9:
wherein the step of activating the mechanical agitator during the first time interval
comprises the step of activating the mechanical agitator for less than
approximately twenty percent (20%) of a duty cycle; and
wherein the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator during the second time interval
comprises the step of deactivating the mechanical agitator for more than
approximately eighty percent (80%) of the duty cycle.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
activating the meter to monitor the delivery of ~~[[metering]]~~ an output of the particulate
~~[[-]] matter[[-delivery]]~~ from the system when the mechanical agitator is
deactivated.
13. (New) The method of claim 8, further controlling the activation and deactivation of the
mechanical agitator and the meter by a logic controller.
14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the logic controller is a phase-locked loop
circuit.